

Appln No. 10/622,221
Amdt date December 29, 2005
Reply to Office action of June 29, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-4, 6, 9-19 and 22-32 remain pending in this application, with claims 33 and 34 withdrawn from consideration. Applicant has amended claims 1, 2, 6, 12-14, 17 and 25-27 and has canceled claims 5, 7, 8, 20 and 21. The amendments find full support in the original specification, claims and drawings. No new matter is presented. Applicant submits that all of pending claims 1-4, 6, 9-19 and 22-32, as amended, are in condition for allowance, and therefore respectfully requests reconsideration and a timely indication of allowance.

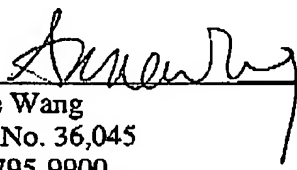
In the Office action dated June 29, 2005, the Examiner rejected claims 1-29 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly anticipated by Wayne, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,203,525). However, Applicant has amended independent claims 1 and 17 to recite a non-conductive tubing mounted on the distal end of the catheter, a mid-section of the non-conductive tubing forming a curve that first bends away from and then back toward and past the axis of the catheter body forming a generally straight distal end of the non-conductive tubing. Wayne neither teaches nor suggests such a feature. Rather, Wayne appears to disclose a loop structure. Accordingly, independent claims 1 and 17, and all claims dependent therefrom, including claims 2-4, 6, 9-16, 18, 19 and 22-32, are allowable over Wayne.

The Examiner also rejected claims 30 and 31 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly obvious over Wayne in view of Fung, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,120,476), and rejected claim 32 under 35§ 103(a) as allegedly obvious over Wayne in view of Swanson, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,961,513). However, neither Fung nor Swanson remedy the deficiencies of Wayne. Specifically, neither Fung nor Swanson disclose a non-conductive tubing mounted on the distal end of the catheter, a mid-section of the non-conductive tubing forming a curve that first bends away from and then back toward and past the axis of the catheter body forming a generally straight distal end of the non-conductive tubing, as recited in amended independent claims 1 and 17. Accordingly, independent claims 1 and 17, and all claims dependent therefrom, including claims 2-4, 6, 9-16, 18, 19 and 22-32, are allowable over Wayne, Fung and Swanson.

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In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that all of pending claims 1-4, 6, 9-19 and 22-32, as amended, are in condition for allowance. Applicant therefore respectfully requests a timely indication of allowance. However, if there are any remaining issues that can be addressed by telephone, Applicant invites the Examiner to contact the undersigned at the number below.

Respectfully submitted,
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